

AP LANG SUMMER READING 2022

MR. TROWELL

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on choosing to take AP Language and Composition - one of Northside High School's most rigorous courses.

This class promises to challenge you intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally. Through this course you will sharpen your confidence and facility with language as you approach meaningful work.

Malcolm Gladwell, whose book *Outliers* we will read this year, defines meaningful work as having autonomy, complexity, and a direct relationship between effort and reward.

This summer reading assignment attempts to fulfill this definition, offering a choice of text, a complex product, and a reward directly related to the quality of your effort.

Please see the list below for your options. This list is a combination of titles chosen by students from my previous AP Language and Composition class as well as books published in 2021. You only need to choose one book.

Be sure to get **a physical copy** of the book. You will not be allowed to use digital books in class.

BOOK LIST

A Woman of No Importance - Sonia Purnell

Say Nothing - Patrick Radden Keefe

The Anthropocene Reviewed - John Green

Let Them Lead - John U. Bacon

Facing the Mountain - Daniel James Brown

All that She Carried - Tiya Miles

READING AND ANNOTATING

While you read your book, be sure to annotate thoroughly in order to be well-prepared for class discussion as well as an essay. Focus on identifying claims or main ideas and considering how the author develops those claims through rhetorical devices, techniques, or strategies. If you are uncertain about what this means, ask your current teacher or stop by my room before you leave for summer break.

I will check your annotations when you return in August.

"EXCELLENCE... IS NOT AN ACT BUT A HABIT" - JOHN WOODEN

PARTING THOUGHTS

One final reminder—AP Language is for contenders not pretenders. By choosing to take this class, you are choosing to adopt a rigorous schedule that will develop a sound mind capable of meeting the challenges of mastering rhetoric and composition. The rewards you receive for taking this class will be the satisfaction of a challenge well-met, the college credit received from the AP Exam, and the life-long skills to navigate a rhetorically complex society. The quality of each of these rewards will be directly related to the effort you apply and the consistency with which you apply it.

If, as John Wooden claims, “we are what we repeatedly do” then it stands to reason that “excellence is not an act, but a habit.” Practice excellence this summer. I look forward to working with you in the fall.

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